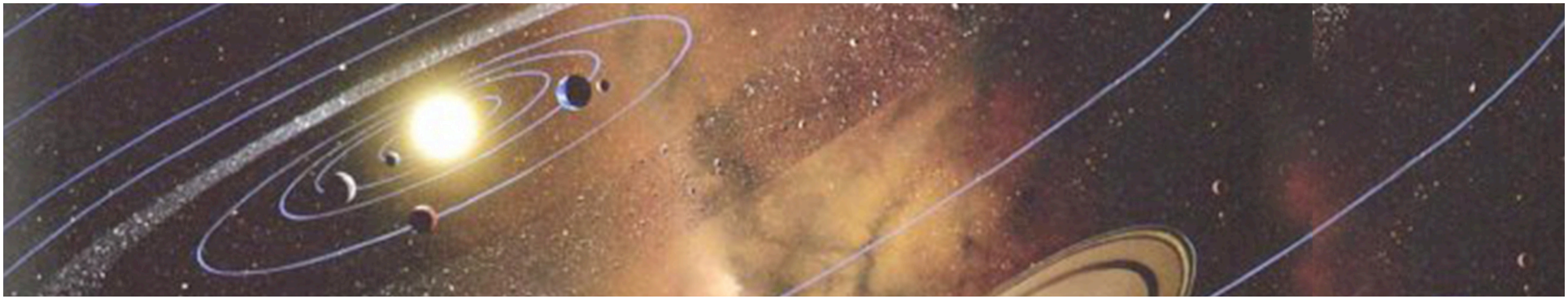

Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute (SSERVI)

LEAG Town Hall Briefing

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Overview

1. Institute Overview

2. NASA's intent and scope of SSERVI and CAN-1

3. CAN Evaluation and Related Issues

4. Q and A

Important notes:

•Any questions raised today will be answered in a written form posted on the NSPIRES FAQ page

•Address any procurement related questions to Max Bernstein via email at Max.Bernstein@nasa.gov

•Please be sure to check the NSPIRES website for any clarifications: http://solicitation.nasaprs.com/SSERVI

Virtual Institute Capabilities

•Eliminate geographical constraints, enabling NASA's science and exploration goals to be addressed regardless of location of expertise or infrastructure

•Quickly transition teams from competitive to collaborative, effectively fostering interdisciplinary advancements

•Provide long-term stable, yet flexible, funding environment for efficient response to new knowledge

•Readily engage broader U.S. and international communities beyond current institute composition

•Help train the next generation of scientific explorers and catalyze networking opportunities for career development

SSERVI Mission

The Mission of SSERVI is to:

•Advance basic and applied research fundamental to lunar and planetary science, and advance human exploration of the solar system through scientific discovery and advancement

•Conduct and catalyze collaborative research in lunar and planetary science, enabling cross-disciplinary partnerships throughout the science and exploration communities

•Provide scientific, technical, and mission-relevant analyses for appropriate NASA programs, planning and space missions as requested by NASA

•Explore innovative ways of using information technology for scientific collaboration and information dissemination across geographic boundaries

•Train the next generation of scientific explorers through research opportunities, and encourage global education and public outreach (EPO) through formal education, informal programs, and participatory public events

NASA's Intent for SSERVI

The Institute was created to further the goals of science and exploration by addressing fundamental science questions and human spaceflight concerns, i.e., to bring science to bear on issues related to potential targets for human exploration.

While NASA's horizon destination is Mars, there is a mandate for human exploration of Near Earth Asteroids (NEAs). An Institute that includes not only the Moon, but other potential destinations, is needed because there are Strategic Knowledge Gaps (SKGs) that apply across all potential human destinations.

http://www.nasa.gov/exploration/library/skg.html

NASA's Intent for SSERVI

As a joint research program activity, SSERVI will be responsive to both HEOMD and SMD goals

Furthermore, a series of Cooperative Agreement Notices (CANs), issued every 2.5 to 3 years, will allow for:

- The continued alignment of the Institute's abilities with NASA's requirements, and

- Overlap between generations of institute teams to provide robustness and continuity

SSERVI CAN-1 Scope

For the purposes of the CAN, the Moon, Near Earth Asteroids (NEAs), and the Martian moons Phobos and Deimos are referred to as Target Body(s)

- The role of Target Body(s) in revealing the origin and evolution of the inner Solar System

- Near-Earth asteroid characterization (including NEAs that are potential human destinations)

- Lunar structure and composition

- Moon, NEA, and Martian moon investigations as windows into planetary differentiation processes

SSERVI CAN-1 Scope

- Regolith of Target Body(s)

- Dust and plasma interactions on Target Body(s)

- Volatiles (in its broad sense) and other potential resources on Target Body(s)

- Innovative observations that will advance our understanding of the fundamental physical laws, composition, and origins of the Universe

Proposal Evaluation

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Scientific and Technical merit*
2. Plan to support other Institute objectives
3. Education and Public Outreach
4. Relevance
5. Cost

* These are the criteria by which proposals will be judged, of which S & T merit has the most weight

Proposal Evaluation: S & T Merit

Scientific and Technical Merit:

•Particular emphasis will be placed upon innovative and interdisciplinary approaches to fulfill the research objectives and the formulation of a research plan that addresses multiple Target Bodies.

•This criterion also includes appropriate breadth of the research, quality of the Team, and the management approach proposed for the productive coordination of the various elements.

•In addition, this criterion includes the probability of success (i.e., bringing the proposed tasks to successful closure) based on the period of performance and available resources.

SSERVI Proposal Evaluation: Institute Objectives

Plan to Support Other Institute Objectives:

•Each Team and individual member of the Institute is expected to be an active participant in the Institute's cooperative endeavors (e.g.; video seminars, workshops, focus groups, mentoring of students, and public outreach).

•Included in the evaluation will be an assessment of the degree to which the proposers understand the demands of participation in the Institute and how well they are prepared to meet those demands.

•Dedicated Team I.T. personnel (to insure timely and effective participation in videoconferencing), appointment of E/PO leads to interact with other teams and the central office, and reliable participation of the PI or a designated deputy in monthly Executive Council meetings are very important.

Proposal Evaluation: E/PO

Education and Public Outreach (E/PO):

Evaluation of each E/PO plan will be measured against the factors outlined in the SMD Explanatory Guide:

http://science.nasa.gov/researchers/education-public-outreach/explanatory-guide-to-smd-e-po-evaluation-factors/.

-Intrinsic Merit
-Relevance to NASA Objectives
-Cost
-Program Balance Factors (used to select among proposals of equal merit)

SSERVI Proposal Evaluation: Relevance and Cost

Relevance:

•Proposals must demonstrate the potential contribution of the effort to the Institute's guiding premise that science and exploration are fundamentally entwined: science enables exploration and exploration enables science

•Proposals of high relevance must also demonstrate an understanding of, and articulate how, the proposed research relates to and influences understanding of the Target Body(s), and contributes to ongoing and planned research activities and NASA flight missions

Cost:

•In evaluating the cost reasonableness of the proposals, reviewers will assess whether the proposed level of effort (i.e., labor Full Time Equivalents or FTEs) and the proposed other direct costs (i.e., supplies, equipment, travel) are commensurate with those required to accomplish the goals of the investigation. Salary levels, fringe benefit rates, and overhead rates are not part of that evaluation

Civil Servant Salary Clarification

•NASA Civil Servant (CS) salaries (and indirect costs) shall NOT be included in CAN budgets, however, CS FTEs should be provided in the budget justification section of the proposal so that level of effort can be properly evaluated

•Because NASA CS salaries must be paid for out of program budgets, NASA HQ needs to know in advance what they will cost. Therefore, NASA Civil Servants MUST upload salary info to NSPIRES

•While peer review panelists will not see the cost of CS salaries in the proposal budgets, PIs should request funding info from CS team members and keep their overall budget in mind with respect to the available funding expected for this CAN (See CAN Section 2.1)

Reviewers needed!

- SMD and HEOMD are seeking qualified reviewers for the SSERVI panel review.
- Anyone who is not conflicted and interested in being a reviewer should go to http://sara.nasa.gov/
  - Then follow the link on the lower left that says “Volunteer for Review Panels.”